

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

April 24, 2008

Present: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Kelly Nelum (for Ed Bailey), Jimmy Bosquez, Debbie Der Torosian (for Roz Clark), Morgan Doizaki, Nick Jones (for Gordon Donoho), Harry Gill, Jesse McDonald, Debra Odom, Jim Poptanich, Marvin Reyes, Yolanda (for Michael Roth), David Tittle

Absent: Frank Franco, Tom Gentile, Paula Farris, Floyd Harris, Rebeca Rangel, Luke Roughley, Enrique Reade, Jan Sangster, Deep Sethi, Darrell Tuckness, Kathy Omachi

Guests: Deputy Chief Robert Nevarez, Deputy Chief Keith Foster, Deputy Chief Sharon Shaffer, Captain Dennis Bridges, Captain Randy Dobbins, Lieutenant Greg Coleman, Sgt. Brian Rogers, Lissa Parker, Stephen Der Torosian.

Call to Order: The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Training Room, was called to order at 5:39 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from March 27, 2008 were approved without corrections

Opening Remarks:

None

Agenda Items:

Attack on Officer Perry

Chief Dyer: Discussion about incident at Roosevelt High School in which Officer Junus Perry was attacked with a bat by a student and forced to shoot the student.

- Media reporting speculation, misinformation and complete falsehoods from the very beginning.
- Met with student's family. The meeting went well.
- Nelum: Indicated agreement that it went very well
- Media continues to report things that are false.
- Investigation into details is still underway.
- The student's family is going through a great deal, tragic and difficult times. Officer Perry is also struggling with what happened. He is also dealing with some public perception that he is a villain.
- We may never have all of the answers, but hopefully we can learn from those we have. We are conducting a critical incident review—not for the purpose of determining blame or wrongdoing, but to learn about what we can improve, such as training, etc.
- The Mayor has put together a group to look at the mental health issues involved.

Round Table

Abu-Shamsieh: Comment that perhaps the Chief's policy should not be that the family, in such a case, should have to request a meeting with the Chief; the Chief should just be there.

Chief Dyer: I never want to force myself upon a family in the midst of experiencing such tragedy. There were some things said early on that indicated that emotions may have been running too high for me to request a meeting. You can do more damage than good by meeting with a family too soon. I made it clear that I was open to meet with them from the beginning. The media portrayed it very differently. And the police department cannot control the media.

Nelum: There was a headline that quoted the pathologist as stating that his findings did not match the police department's version of the events. The media falsely portrayed the Chief as not wanting to meet with the family. They seemed to have their own agenda concerning their portrayal of the Chief's role and availability to the family as well as the outcome of the meeting.

Doizaki: Will this change how things are handled [armed officers at schools]?

Chief Dyer: If the officer had not been armed, we would no longer have an officer. I will not put any officer at a school without a gun. We did look at what training our officers get in terms of mental illness.

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DC Foster: Extensive training during academy, during orientation, during field training. Continuous training, policies and procedures on dealing with mentally ill or developmentally delayed people. Additional training bulletins, crisis intervention training, etc. Officers 5150 about 8 people per day. There are many more who don't quite meet the 5150 criteria.

Chief Dyer: Lack of funding contributes to the large numbers of them on the streets.

Poptanich: What about future assignments for Officer Perry?

Chief Dyer: He wants to go right back to Roosevelt, quickly.

Odom: The school officers really go above and beyond to build a relationship with the students. There are so many students with these types of issues and maybe one officer. What is amazing is that this doesn't occur more frequently.

Nelum: There are additional issues of staffing and confidentiality to be looked into. Perhaps officers need to be aware of who the students are that have mental health problems.

Chief Dyer: One of the components we need to look into concerns who can share what information with whom. This is information necessary to protect people.

Der Torosian: Area near Winery and Kings Canyon really starting to feel the heat from the gang activity.

Lt. Dobbins: We are performing major gang operations resulting in multiple arrests every week. We are finding ways to be proactive, but when gang crime does occur, we are performing large operations to restore order to the neighborhood as quickly as possible. There is currently a lot of displacement of gangs from the west side; but where they go, we go. We are also doing what we can to provide you with the necessary ammunition to get them evicted.

Poptanich: District 2 is looking at putting in a baseball diamond near the Figgarden loop. Do you foresee any problems?

DC Nevarez: Lighting is critical. Keeping it really well lit with few places to hide will reduce people thinking they can get away with something.

Doizaki: Shoplifting is becoming an increasing issue at the Fulton Swap mall. Juveniles are stealing for themselves, or being made to steal by adults and aren't receiving any consequences. They're not getting in trouble so it keeps getting worse.

Chief Dyer: That's a hard one to provide an answer to. There are only so many beds at the juvenile justice center, like in the jails, so those who end up there are the one's who commit the more serious crimes. Those who commit lower level crimes may not even receive probation. The police are only one part of the criminal justice system. When any one part of that huge machine isn't working properly, it fails to function as a whole. I just don't have an answer.

Doizaki: Can we put pictures up of the people we know are stealing?

DC Nevarez: I don't see why you can't; that shouldn't be a problem.

Announcements:

None

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Next Meeting:

May 29th, 2008